

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION**

GREG GIANFORTE, GOVERNOR

1539 ELEVENTH AVENUE

STATE OF MONTANADIRECTOR'S OFFICE: (406) 444-2074
FAX: (406) 444-2684PO BOX 201601
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-1601**DECISION MEMO
ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE**

Reprint of "A Guide to Montana's Freshwater Aquatic Plants"

January 26, 2022

Montana State University

Administrative Actions

Bozeman, MT

Gallatin

PURPOSE AND NEED

The publication titled, "A Guide to Montana's Freshwater Aquatic Plants" was published in 2013, and at that time 3,000 copies were printed. Since then, all printed copies have been distributed and the Montana Noxious Weed Education Campaign (MNWEC) has received numerous requests for additional copies. The Montana State University is requesting funds to update and reprint this publication to meet the needs of stakeholders. Further, an update and reprint to this existing publication helps expand the needs outlined in the 2016 Montana Invasive Species Framework (e.g., Prevention and Detection) as well as educational needs outlined in the Montana Noxious Weed Management plan because it puts a highly sought after updated guide in the hands of professionals who will use it in the field, e.g., boat check station personnel.

This photo-heavy, user-friendly guide will continue to increase the number of people who are able to quickly identify both aquatic native and noxious weed species and provide assistance to land managers by alerting them of any new infestations of invaders. The guide includes photos and text about each species' distinguishing characteristics, habitat, leaf/flower/fruit/root structure, and nativity or listing status. Currently, the guidebook contains 65 native aquatic species and 7 invasive species. This update will include several species that have been identified by Fish, Wildlife and Parks and Montana Department of Agriculture as potential new invaders.

Species to be included in the update: Starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*), Yellow floating heart (*Nymphoides peltata*), Variable-leaf milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*), Fanwort (*Cabomba caroliniana*), Common water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*), Brittleleaf naiad (*Najas minor*), Hybrid EWM (*Myriophyllum spicatum* x *Myriophyllum sibiricum*), Parrotfeather milfoil (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*).

By updating this guide and distributing it across the state, we are expanding educational efforts and increasing the number of people who can assist with reporting and early detection and rapid response (EDRR) efforts.

DNRC will approve the grant to provide funding for the Reprint of "A Guide to Montana's Freshwater Aquatic Plants" Project.

DNRC is not required to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for actions that qualify for a CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (ARM 36.17.614) or justified by a PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW; or are ACTIONS OF A SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523(5)); or are EMERGENCIES (ARM 36.2.539). These actions are subject to review for EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES that would require an EA or an EIS.

ACTIONS OF SPECIAL NATURE (ARM 36.2.523)

☒ Administrative actions: routine, clerical or similar functions of a department, including but not limited to administrative procurement, contracts for consulting services, and personnel actions.

☐ Minor repairs, operations, or maintenance of existing equipment or facilities.

☐ Investigation and enforcement: data collection, inspection of facilities or enforcement of environmental standards.

☐ Ministerial actions: actions in which the agency exercises no discretion, but rather acts upon a given state of facts in a prescribed manner.

☒ Actions that are primarily social or economic in nature and that do not otherwise affect the human environment.

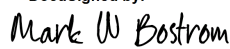
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

☐ Categorical Exclusion (CE) refers to a type of action which does not individually, collectively, or cumulatively require an EA or EIS, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review adopted by the agency, unless extraordinary circumstances, as defined by rulemaking or programmatic review, occur. This project qualifies under ARM 36.17.614 CATEGORICAL EXCLUSIONS.

☐ Programmatic review means an analysis (EIS or EA) of the impacts on the quality of the human environment of related actions, programs, or policies. DNRC – CARDD does not have any programmatic reviews completed at the time of this template.

The project listed above meets the definition of Actions of a Special Nature, Categorical Exclusion or Programmatic Review including specified conditions and Extraordinary Circumstances.

Prepared By:	Name: Emily Moran, MISC Title: Administrative Assistant Email: Emoran@mt.gov	Date: 2/7/2022
---------------------	---	-----------------------

Approved By:	Name: Mark Bostrom Title: CARD Division Administrator
Signature:	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <small>DocuSigned by:</small>  <small>BF7A1C50B2AF4DE...</small> </div> <div> Date: 2/11/2022 8:44:18 AM MST </div> </div>